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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Deputy Chief Willie Hunt Set to Retire from the Kankakee Police Department**

**Kankakee, IL** – After serving 24 years with the Kankakee Police Department, Deputy Chief, Willie Hunt, is looking forward to his retirement.

"I enjoyed working with the youth, younger officers, and the citizens of Kankakee. Law enforcement is making some drastic changes, especially in the state of Illinois. If it's not in your heart to do the right thing all the time, I would suggest you pick a different career path," said Deputy Chief, Willie Hunt.

Hunt grew up in Hopkins Park and graduated with honors from St. Anne Community High School. He went on to receive his Bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Arkansas University, his Master of Arts in organizational management from Ashford University, and is currently working on his doctoral degree in Psychology, specializing in criminology and law studies with the University of the Rockies. Hunt is also a U.S. Army veteran.

"For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today," said Deputy Chief, Willie Hunt, a quote that was once shared with him from one of his mentors.

A proclamation was read by Mayor Wells-Armstrong in honor of Deputy Chief Hunt's retirement during Monday night's city council meeting and can be viewed here:

<https://citykankakee-il.gov/chambervideo.php>.

"Deputy Chief Hunt has made a significant impact on the City of Kankakee; particularly among our youth. He has earned the respect of many throughout our community modeling his love of family, community and service. Over the past few years, he grew in his role and was only the second African American to hold the rank of Deputy Chief in the history of the police department. He is a trailblazer and I am proud he is ending his career healthy and on his own terms. He deserves to enjoy his retirement for a job well done," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

“Throughout his career, but especially during the last two years that I have worked with him, Deputy Chief Hunt has exemplified the character traits of devotion to duty, sincerity of purpose and a genuine concern for all. His exceptional and professional service to the City of Kankakee and its residents will certainly be missed,” said Police Chief, Frank Kosman.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building, and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).